

service men's organizations be afforded the privilege of being present at such hearings; to the Committee on Military Affairs.

2212. By Mr. SCHALL: Petition of Pittsburgh Teachers' Association, Pittsburgh, Pa., sent by Ralph Elliott Blakesless, president, indorsing liberty calendar bill; to the Committee on the Library.

2213. By Mr. TINKHAM: Petitions of citizens of Boston, Maritime Association of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, Military Order of the World War, and the De Valera Associates, of Massachusetts, favoring the release of Eamon de Valera; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

2214. By Mr. WILSON of Indiana: Petition of 114 names of voters of the first district of Indiana, demanding that the quota of 1890 be used as a basis for determining the number of aliens to be admitted from each country to the United States; to the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SUNDAY, April 6, 1924

The House met at 11 o'clock a. m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. COLLIER.

The following prayer was offered by the Rev. Doctor William B. Waller:

O Thou in whom we live and move and have our being, we thank Thee for life with all its privileges and opportunities and for the measure of health and strength Thou hast given us.

May we use these blessings for the good of our fellowmen and for the advancement of Thy Kingdom.

May we profit from the lives of those we remember this day.

Bless those that mourn. Fulfill to them Thy promise: "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted."

We invoke Thy blessing and guidance upon our President, upon Congress, and all in authority.

Enable us all so to live and serve in this life that in the world to come we may have life everlasting; through Jesus Christ, our Friend and our Redeemer. Amen.

### MEMORIAL ADDRESSES ON THE LATE HON. B. G. HUMPHREYS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. To-day has been set apart by special order for addresses on the life and character of the Hon. B. G. HUMPHREYS, late a Representative from the State of Mississippi. The gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. QUIN] will take the chair.

Mr. QUIN took the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

Mr. COLLIER. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following resolutions, and ask for their immediate consideration.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### House Resolution 248

*Resolved*, That the business of the House be now suspended, that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of Hon. BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS, late a Member of this House from the State of Mississippi.

*Resolved*, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his distinguished public career, the House, at the conclusion of these exercises, shall stand adjourned.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were agreed to.

Mr. COLLIER. Mr. Speaker, death has been busy in the ranks of those elected to the Sixty-eighth Congress. When we met last December we mourned the loss of many here in the House of Representatives and in the Senate of the United States.

To-day we pay a tribute of love and respect to the memory of our late colleague, Hon. BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS, of Mississippi. It was my good fortune to have been intimately acquainted with BEN HUMPHREYS. I first met him at the University of Mississippi where we were fellow students. The acquaintance commencing in those early days ripened into a sincere and lasting friendship.

Aside from the magnetic personality which Mr. HUMPHREYS possessed in a remarkable degree, there were many reasons why I should have been attracted toward him even before our acquaintance began. I had so often heard my father speak of his father, who was the commander first of the regiment and afterwards of the brigade in which my father served during the entire period of the Civil War, that I was anxious to meet and to know the son of one for whom my father entertained so much admiration and respect.

We served together in this House for over 14 years, part of the time sharing the same apartment and living at the same hotel.

BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS was born in Claiborne County, Miss., on August 17, 1865. His father, Benjamin G. Humphreys, was colonel of the Twenty-first Mississippi Regiment in Barksdale's brigade, and took command of the brigade at Gettysburg after General Barksdale was killed. He was elected Governor of Mississippi October 2, 1865, and exercised the duties of that office until June 15, 1868, when, during the reconstruction period, he was succeeded by Adelbert Ames, of Massachusetts.

BEN HUMPHREYS's mother was Mildred Hickman Maury, of Tennessee. He married Miss Louise Yerger, of Greenville, Miss., on October 9, 1890. He had two children, a daughter, Mrs. Ralph McGee, and a son, WILLIAM YERGER HUMPHREYS, who is now a distinguished Member of this House.

BEN HUMPHREYS had a varied experience in different business occupations. He first engaged in mercantile pursuits, clerking in a store. He then became a commercial traveler.

He was superintendent of education for Le Flore County for four years. Though several years had elapsed since he had been a student at the University of Mississippi, he returned to that institution in order to take up the study of law. He was a presidential elector in 1892 and was selected messenger to bring Mississippi's vote for Cleveland to Washington.

In 1895 he was elected district attorney for the Fourth Circuit Court District of Mississippi for a term of four years, and was reelected without opposition in 1899. During the period of Mr. HUMPHREYS's incumbency of the office of district attorney he took part in several of the most noted criminal prosecutions in the history of Mississippi and soon gained, as a just and fearless representative of the State, an enviable reputation.

When war was declared against Spain in 1898 Mr. HUMPHREYS at once raised a company at Greenwood and offered to resign the office of district attorney, but Gov. A. J. McLaurin refused to accept his resignation, and gave him leave of absence instead.

He served in the Second Mississippi Volunteer Infantry under Gen. Fitzhugh Lee during the entire period of the war, and was mustered out with his regiment at Columbia, Tenn., in December, 1898.

Upon the reorganization of the Mississippi National Guard after the Spanish-American War in 1899 he was commissioned major in the First Mississippi Regiment.

In 1902 he was elected to Congress and was reelected 10 times. He had the distinction of serving in this House for a longer period of time than any other Representative from the State of Mississippi.

Mr. HUMPHREYS came to the House of Representatives rich in the experience of many different vocations in life. In each he had been successful, and the knowledge gained in these various vocations contributed much to his usefulness as a Member of this House.

Mr. HUMPHREYS was a legislator of distinguished ability. Early specializing on all matters connected with river and harbor legislation he soon became an acknowledged authority on such legislation. He was the author of a book on the subject of the "Floods and Levees of the Mississippi River," which is a valuable contribution to the history of Mississippi River legislation.

His tireless efforts in behalf of levee construction and reclamation work were crowned with the most complete success and the completion of the long line of levees controlling the greatest river in the world is a lasting monument to the genius and perseverance of BEN HUMPHREYS.

While Mr. HUMPHREYS's fame as a statesman rests primarily upon the splendid services he rendered to those living in the lower Mississippi Valley, his knowledge of all matters pertaining to general legislation was profound. He was a man of strong convictions and the courageous manner in which he gave utterance to those convictions was superb. No Representative ever tried more to represent the wishes of his constituents. He sought their advice and their counsel at all times, but unmoved alike by public clamor or impulsive appeals, in his quiet, unassuming way he made up his mind and arrived at his conclusion, which once reached, conscious of the wisdom and the rectitude of that conclusion, no consideration of interest, no fear of consequences could move.

When the Committee on Flood Control was created, BEN HUMPHREYS was appointed chairman. During the time he presided over that committee the most important and far-reaching river legislation ever enacted by an American Congress was adopted. Giving full credit to all whom credit is due, I do not believe it can be successfully denied that the

flood control act, which meant the completion of the levee system on the Mississippi River, would ever have passed through this House and become a law without the tact, perseverance, and exhaustive information possessed in a marvelous degree by BEN HUMPHREYS in conducting the passage of that bill through the House.

Within the last two or three days there was an account in the Yazoo Sentinel of Yazoo City, Miss., of the Army bill which carried the recent appropriation for flood control, and there was a reference therein to the late Mr. HUMPHREYS, which I think is not inappropriate to read:

It is appropriate to remark in this connection that Mississippi River flood control, as perfected by to-day's development in Congress, marks the crowning achievement of the 20 years' faithful and constructive labors of the late BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS as a Member of the House. Flood control in its present-day legislative evolution was the dream of Congressman BEN HUMPHREYS's 10 terms in Congress and he lived to taste of the sweets of its realization.

I believe it can be truthfully stated that BEN HUMPHREYS was the most popular man in the House of Representatives, and certainly no individual Member on either side of the aisle possessed more influence in this House than our late colleague from Mississippi.

He was fond of people and people were fond of him.

Always cheerful, with a keen sense of humor, his quaint, unexpected sayings added to the charm of his conversation and made him a welcome addition to any gathering.

Mr. Robert M. Gates, the correspondent of the Memphis Commercial Appeal, who was a devoted friend of Mr. HUMPHREYS, wrote the day after his death a beautiful tribute to him, part of which I will read.

BEN HUMPHREYS is dead. If that mournful message had been read in the House of Representatives to the 435 of his late colleagues an audible sigh of sorrow would have swept the vast hall and tears would have gathered in eyes that have not wept in years, so beloved was he and so poignantly personal the grief that filled every heart in which he occupied a place of friendly affection.

By every outward token by which the thoughts of men may be rightfully interpreted and their deeper and truer feelings plumbed, BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS was regarded by his colleagues, Democrats and Republicans alike, with a warmth of affectionate admiration that took no account of his membership of the House as a mark of technical and official identification with that body, but which testified truly and tenderly to the unostentatious triumph of a personality to whose persuasive influence men instinctively yielded as a tribute.

#### A TRUE GENTLEMAN

Whether in the open forum or debate, in which passion and partisan feeling are too often the thunder and lightning, whether in cloakroom where men gather in the seclusion and privacy of social intimacy and where men are known and reveal themselves as they are and not as they seem when strutting the stage of action under the concentrated attention of gallery observers, or whether in the atmosphere of the freedom of his private office, BEN HUMPHREYS was always his real and true self—a gentleman by ancestral lineage and unbroken practice, a man whose manhood was founded upon the unblatant rock of moral and physical courage and unshakable honor, a practical statesman whose highest concept of duty was epitomized in three words—worthy public service. But it was as a friend in the forging of the links in the chain that binds men in the strength of sacrificing friendship that BEN HUMPHREYS, the man, will survive longest in the memory of those whose privilege it was to know him, to love, honor, and respect for those rarer qualities of heart of mind and of soul.

This was the man, the Congressman, whose death at any time would have been too soon and whose taking off with tragic suddenness thousands will mourn and mingle their tears with his grief-stricken family and relations.

The people of the lower Mississippi Valley have lost their best and most effective friend in the House of Representatives. To me his death is an irreparable loss.

A special meeting of the Mississippi Society, of which Mr. HUMPHREYS was an active member, will be called to take suitable action.

To the writer of this article the death of BEN HUMPHREYS deprives him of a friend whose ever delightful and inspiring companionship was prized as one of the most fortunate as well as beneficial achievements of his nearly 20 years in the national press galleries.

Farewell my true and noble, big-brained, and generous-hearted friend.

Mr. Speaker, BEN HUMPHREYS's death was a great shock to me. Only a short time before I had seen him at Winona, where we both went to attend the funeral of our friend and late colleague, Thomas U. Sisson, who for so many years was a distinguished Member of this House. On that day, the last

time I saw BEN HUMPHREYS alive, I thought he looked unusually well, and his sudden and unexpected taking off was a great shock to me.

It was my melancholy privilege to attend his funeral. Every business house in the city of Greenville closed. Evidences of sorrow and distress were everywhere. Hosts of friends from adjacent counties were present. The Episcopal Church where the services were conducted could not accommodate the concourse of friends which had assembled to pay their last tribute of respect to this great Mississippian, and there were many who stood outside in a drizzling rain while the services were being conducted in the church.

Mr. Speaker, it matters little how we die, but it matters much how we live. Death must come to us all, and it matters little how or when it comes, but it matters much whether it follows a well or an ill spent life.

BEN HUMPHREYS lived not in vain. The world is the richer for his life. To-day, in that beautiful land he loved so well, safe behind those levees which hold back the rushing waters of the greatest river in all the world, a grateful people will ever cherish and preserve the memory of their friend and representative who accomplished so much for them.

BEN HUMPHREYS left behind him no great treasures in silver, or gold, or worldly goods, but he bequeathed to his family and his friends that greatest and most precious of all legacies, "an honored name; the memory of earnest deeds well done."

Death came to him while he was still in the service of his country; while the affairs of government were still in his grasp, and while he was surrounded with "honor, love, obedience, and troops of friends."

We may well apply to him what Pope said of one of England's most beloved men:

Statesman, yet friend to truth, of soul sincere,  
In action faithful and in honor clear,  
Who broke no promise, served no private end,  
Who gained no title, and who lost no friend.

He sleeps in the cemetery at Greenville on the banks of that restless river his genius had contributed so much to control. After fighting a good fight he has gone to his eternal reward. He has passed away, but he is not forgotten, for—

Brother, you have not died in vain,  
For you will live until the end of time;  
Your record shines without a stain,  
The soul of faith marches on unslain  
To the heights of the hills sublime.

Mr. COLLIER resumed the chair as Speaker pro tempore.

Mr. GARRETT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the great, proud Commonwealth of Mississippi has given to the service of State and Nation her full quota of illustrious citizens, men whose names are imperishably inscribed upon the pages of history.

BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS, who had served for 20 years in the House of Representatives and had been chosen for another term, was in point of virtue, devotion to high ideals in the public service, and unswerving intellectual integrity, in every way worthy the best and finest traditions of Mississippi's justly exalted past.

It was my good fortune to form his acquaintance at the very beginning of my service in this body. Like all others who came in contact with his charming personality, I fell quickly under the spell of his attractions and became his devoted friend and sincere admirer.

We served together on various committees of the House and our social relations were of the most cordial and agreeable character.

He was a gifted and versatile man; his culture was broad and thorough. He was an omnivorous reader both of literature and history, and he read always to good purpose. Few, if any, Members of the House in my time have been so well versed as was he in the world's classics of literature and the history of his State, his Nation, and of the world. His interest went far beyond political and governmental philosophy and activity and touched all the field of intellectual accomplishment and ambition.

He was a ready debater, possessing the ability to state his facts and arguments with singular clarity and succinctness. No Member had a wider circle of personal friends in the House than he, and his wide influence in those matters of legislation to which he gave particular attention was a matter of constant comment throughout his entire career. He established himself almost immediately upon beginning his service in the affections and good graces of the entire membership, including the most potent and influential leaders among both political parties, and



this station he occupied to the end throughout all the various changes of personnel that took place during his long and distinguished career.

In private conversation he was most charming; he possessed a keen and happy sense of humor, told a story in a most unique and interesting manner, and was almost invariably the central figure of any group of which he was a member.

As a public man I think it may be said that his outstanding characteristic was his unswerving intellectual integrity. He had sincere convictions predicated upon earnest study of the genius and spirit of our Government and to these convictions he gave unhesitating expression by voice and vote.

I do not believe he ever gave the slightest thought to the possible effect a vote of his might have upon his political fortunes. He gave expression to his convictions and relied upon his constituency to sustain his course. In this he was never disappointed. I have had the honor of being in his district and of observing with delight the sincere affection and unconcealed pride with which his constituents honored him. He held their unstinted confidence; they knew him; they believed in him, and they proudly showered him with public honors.

I shall not attempt any detailed review of his career. He was an active Member, faithful to his trust and loyal to his duty. He seemed to be in the very prime of his intellectual and moral powers when the sudden blow fell and the news flashed over the wires of the Nation that he was gone from among us.

I feel quite certain no death of a Member within my term has been more universally and sincerely deplored by all those with whom he was associated.

His family life was ideal, and to his widow and the children whom he loved so deeply, one of whom to our great pleasure holds now the seat which his illustrious father filled so ably and so long, our hearts go out in tenderest sympathy and deepest sorrow.

Mr. MADDEN. Mr. Speaker it is a great privilege to be accorded to any man to serve as a Member of this body, and no man in the history of my experience ever served his people with greater fidelity and ability and singleness of purpose than did BEN HUMPHREYS, in honor of whose memory we are here to-day. It was my privilege to know BEN HUMPHREYS very well. We served together on the Rivers and Harbors Committee early in my congressional career. He was an enthusiastic advocate of the Mississippi River development. He believed that the center of the United States beginning at Chicago should be connected with the Gulf of Mexico by a waterway through which the products of the Central West might be carried to every part of the world.

I, under his leadership, on one occasion made a trip from Chicago in a little gasoline launch to New Orleans. We stopped at almost every town on the way, and we organized what was known as the Lake to the Gulf Waterways Association. This association became a national figure in the waterway development. If I am not mistaken, the distinguished Senator from Louisiana, Senator RANSDELL, now presides over this association.

BEN HUMPHREYS took a particularly active part in this work, as he did in all other works in his legislative career. But the one thing in which he was interested and in connection with which he was so conspicuously successful was the development of the Mississippi River and the protection of the adjacent territory from the floods of that river. It was through his indefatigable energy and his influence with the Congress that the project was adopted early in my congressional career which provided for the expenditure of about \$45,000,000 on this development. Just before his congressional career ended, during the Sixty-seventh Congress, if I recall, he was instrumental in having a new act passed which provided for the expenditure of \$10,000,000 annually for flood control on the Mississippi River during the next six years.

Only a short time before he died he was here while Congress was not in session. He was interested to know what was going to happen in connection with appropriations, so he came on to see me, and for two or three hours we discussed the question. He was particularly anxious to know that no curtailment of the amount provided for in the law should be made for economical or other reasons.

We left each other, he carrying away my promise that when the appropriation bill was passed it would carry \$10,000,000, which the law provided should be expended in the year 1925 on this great river development. That promise then given to him, the last one made by me, has been carried out so far as the House can carry it out. The bill is now pending in the Senate, and I hope the Senate will ratify the action of the House and that the bill will contain the appropriation for the

\$10,000,000, about which Mr. HUMPHREYS was so much concerned, when it receives the signature of the President.

BEN HUMPHREYS was a wonderful man. You could not meet him without loving him. He had the ability to express his thoughts more clearly than any other man I ever knew. He was modest, unassuming, untiring, singularly devoted to the people who sent him here and to his State as well as to the Nation. He never trimmed his sails to meet any passing wind. He had courage; he had integrity, not only of intellect but of purpose. He had the confidence of every man who came in contact with him, and that was why he had the influence which he possessed.

Mississippi should be proud of BEN HUMPHREYS's memory, as are we who had the privilege of associating with him in his work here. No man ever loved his State or his people more than BEN HUMPHREYS did. No man ever tried to serve the Nation better, and I think few men succeeded as well. We are not here to mourn BEN HUMPHREYS's death. His death came in the natural course of events, as does the death of every other man. We are here to praise his life, we are here because we loved the man, because we knew that he was deserving of the confidence of the people of a great Nation. He left a name behind him that every young man should be proud to revere. His work and deeds were such as every man might emulate. He was a true American, a great Representative, a wonderful man, and his memory will live. His work will be followed, because he is dead only in name. He has done so many things that will be beneficial to those who are yet to come that his name will continue to be honored and quoted by those who shall come to the stage of action in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to see his son among us. I have had the privilege of meeting him and he impresses me as worthy of the great father who has gone. If he lives up to the standard which his father set, he will have reason to feel that he has made a record of which the Nation will be proud.

Mr. QUIN. Mr. Speaker, our departed colleague was more than a friend to me. He was born in my district in the good old county of Claiborne. Most of his relatives live in that county now. I knew Mr. HUMPHREYS before I ever came to Congress. I served with him here for over 10 years, and I believe that I knew him as intimately as I knew myself. BEN HUMPHREYS, as he was called even by the youngest men in this House shortly after becoming acquainted with him, was loved by all his fellow Members on both sides of the House. In the State of Mississippi on many occasions I stated that BEN HUMPHREYS had more influence in this House than any other Member from the South. In his lifetime I said that, because I felt it to be true, and since he is dead, so far as the flesh is concerned, I repeat that statement. I remember that if there was anything that I wanted for my people which I could not do myself, I went to him for it. You all remember that he had a very charming personality, a strong personality. After the Republicans came into power in 1920, the chairmen of the various committees on that side were the bosom friends of BEN HUMPHREYS. I, in the closing days of a session of Congress, went to Mr. Good, then chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and asked to have an amendment inserted on an appropriation bill. Mr. Good said no, that he could not do it. I then went to the chairman of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, and he told me the same thing. I gave my plan to BEN HUMPHREYS. He took my troubles and went over and said, "Mr. Good, PERCY wants a little amendment added to your bill. It is only about \$60,000, and I want you to accept the amendment for the benefit of QUIN's constituents in the seventh district of Mississippi." Good replied that he could not do it, and BEN said, "Oh, yes, Good, you must do it." Then Mr. Good said, "Very well, if you can get the chairman of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors to agree to it." Mr. HUMPHREYS then went to that gentleman and told him my troubles, and succeeded in getting the appropriation for my constituents in Mississippi. Mr. HUMPHREYS was successful. He knew his man and knew how to get things done.

In many respects Mr. HUMPHREYS was a very remarkable man. It will be recalled that he had the superb qualities both of the tragedian and the comedian. As an actor on the stage he would have been great in either rôle. On the floor of this House I have seen him in the heat of argument when interrupted by a question, simply turn his head sideways and with that peculiar smile cause the whole House to break into laughter, and the interrupter would be seated and Mr. HUMPHREYS in the next second would turn to his argument in his forceful and vehement way. He was a philosopher. As the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. COLLIER] and as our distinguished leader [Mr. GARRETT] have said, BEN HUMPHREYS was a versatile man. He was well read in literature, philosophy,



and history. He knew people. In his inimitable way he could describe the negro, the colored person on the plantation in Mississippi, not only in dialect, but even in action. He knew the traditions of the Indians. He and our good friend Mr. CARTER, from Oklahoma, oftentimes for hours in conversation discussed the Choctaws of Mississippi and the characteristics of that Chief Pushmetaha.

Mr. HUMPHREYS was a man of splendid physique, being 6 feet 1 inch high and weighing 190 pounds. Naturally he was very intellectual in appearance, but he was very handsome, and had that quality by which he could change in an instant the expression of his face to assume even the characteristics of a simpleton. He was strong in soul, great in character, strong and resourceful in the arts of conversation and debate.

The State of Mississippi has sustained a great loss in the passing of Mr. HUMPHREYS. Coming from that section of the State where his services were so much needed in the particular line to which he had given his life work in Congress, his place can not be filled here within a short time. There are but few men who can ever rise to the eminence in this House that our deceased friend and colleague attained. His ancestry was inferior to that of no other man in this House nor in the State of Mississippi. He came from a proud and distinguished race of people. His father before him was a strong man, courageous in peace as he was in war.

BEN HUMPHREYS inherited the qualities of that distinguished father, and while he was as kind and gentle as a woman, he was as courageous as a lion, physically and intellectually. He feared nothing and dodged nothing. He boldly met all issues and consequently performed his duties as an official and as a man. He shirked no responsibility. He felt his accountability to his own conscience and to his God. He was a devoted Christian and a loyal patriot.

He placed in his life work God and his country first.

BEN HUMPHREYS never did in all of my acquaintance with him condone wrong nor bend his knees to that which he thought would not be for the best interests of his State and Nation. He was indeed a thoroughly human man, caring nothing for what people might think of him, but in his own consciousness of uprightness and honesty he pursued his course as a Congressman, won great laurels as a statesman, and endeared himself to his fellow man. Since he has gone his memory lives; his services to his State and Nation and his devotion to his dear wife and children shall linger always. May the praises of this good man's name and the love and affection with which he is remembered by his comrades in Congress be of some cheer to those who mourn. Peace to his ashes. God bless his soul.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I know I should not let this occasion pass without undertaking some tribute, inadequate and insufficient though it be, to that splendid character in whose memory these solemn services are held, and yet I can not bring myself to feel that I shall be able to say anything in eulogy of our beloved departed friend without very greatly increasing that deep sorrow and grief which we all have so constantly felt since his sad and shocking death. Under the intensity of my feelings I must content myself with saying only he was one who "lived in a house by the side of the road and was a friend of man." He was a stalwart of stalwarts, a man among men. In his passing one of the staunchest props of this Republic fell and much of God's sunshine passed from this earth.

Mr. WILSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker and gentlemen, the death of Hon. BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS was an immeasurable loss to the immediate section in which he lived and to the entire Nation. He was a typical Mississippian and a typical son of the South, yet he was not provincial or sectional. His intense devotion to his own State and his section equipped him as a more useful Representative for the entire Nation.

Mr. HUMPHREYS was a man of unusual ability, untiring energy, and great force of character. He was an interesting and charming personality, a true and sincere friend, a devoted husband, an indulgent father, and an upright man.

While his work in public life will be remembered chiefly in relation to the problems of the lower Mississippi Valley, the record will retain lasting impressions of his forceful activity in legislation of a national character.

A man is fortunate who comes to the National House of Representatives and can become identified with some definite and important problem of nation-wide significance. If he can become recognized as leader in respect to a question or project meaning much to the national welfare, he from that time occupies a commanding position of great influence. But no man

can be so recognized in the House unless he possesses a very high degree of ability, and coupled with this must be a devotion to the cause he represents and a sincerity and integrity of purpose so conducted as to establish himself in the confidence of its membership.

BEN HUMPHREYS had the problem and it was very close to his heart. The improvement of the Mississippi River for the purpose of flood control; the making useful of the main stream and its tributaries as arteries of commerce; and the protection of the adjacent lands from the flood waters of the Mississippi River may properly be termed the Nation's most important internal improvement.

By close application through many years of study and investigation he had gained a complete mastery of this entire subject and had become, indeed, the recognized national leader in respect to all matters relating to flood control.

I came to Congress from a district situated similarly to his—one fronting some 300 miles on the Mississippi River. The problems vital to his people were also vital to mine. During my first term here the question arose as to the advisability of separating the problem of flood control from the general activities of river and harbor improvement and the creation of a separate committee for that purpose. It was largely through the influence of Mr. HUMPHREYS that this committee was created, and he became its first chairman. The preparation of the first flood control act, dealing with the flood problems of the Mississippi River from Cairo to the Head of the Passes, was left almost entirely to his judgment, and during this work the committee was often amazed at the complete and definite information he had ready at all times. His information was so complete and his enthusiasm was so great as to always win the support desired, whether before the committee or before the House. It has been said here, and I desire to repeat, that BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS was the most effective man in respect to any cause he saw fit to champion in Congress on either side of the aisle. This grew out of his personal charm, his recognized ability, fairness, frankness, and sincerity of purpose.

The flood control act of March 1, 1917, constituted the first important step toward final solution of the problem which had engaged the energies and activities of his predecessors and co-workers. Important among these I may mention Blanchard and Ransdell, of Louisiana; Catchings, of Mississippi; and Clarke, of Arkansas. This act authorized an appropriation of \$45,000,000, and contemplated contributions by local interests of \$15,000,000, to be spent in a five-year period. As this period came to a close it was evident that the work was far from completion.

The World War had intervened, costs of labor and construction had mounted, and the activities of the Government and the local interests had been hampered to such an extent that a new authorization was imperative. The complexion of Congress had changed, the opposite party was in power, and Hon. William A. Rodenberg, of Illinois, was chairman. Fortunately there has never been any partisanship in connection with the work of this committee, and Mr. Rodenberg had long been an enthusiastic friend of the flood-control work. A new bill was proposed for an additional authorization of \$10,000,000 a year for six years, and as the hearings developed, largely under the direction of Mr. HUMPHREYS, it was soon found that the entire membership of the committee, irrespective of party, were friendly and determined advocates of our cause. Again, just as the Congress closed, and on the last day of the session, the new bill was passed and signed by President Harding a few hours before the term expired under limitations of the Constitution. Without the ability, popularity, and effectiveness of BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS it is doubtful if this important measure could have become a law.

Just a few days before his death, in October, 1923, we had received information that there was some doubt as to whether the full \$10,000,000 would be recommended by the Bureau of the Budget to Congress. I was in Washington, got in touch with Mr. HUMPHREYS, and a delegation came to discuss the matter and urge its importance before the interested authorities. And here again before the Bureau of the Budget and the Secretary of War Mr. HUMPHREYS, apparently in fine health, presented the cause of our people with the same tact and convincing vigor as before; in fact he never appeared to better advantage than upon this occasion.

Language is inadequate to give expression to the deep sense of loss and sorrow caused by the sad intelligence that he had passed to the great beyond soon after reaching his home at Greenville, Miss. While the death of such a man is unfortunate at any time, while neither his people at home nor the Nation is ever prepared to lose a public servant of the character and ability of Mr. HUMPHREYS, it is a matter of infinite

satisfaction to know that he lived to see the realization of his hopes and the results of his splendid work.

The passage of the laws to which I have referred constitutes the foundation for a completed program, such a program as he had hoped and worked for. For myself and the people I represent I wish to express now a feeling of undying gratitude to our departed friend for the assistance he was to me in securing results for them.

The name of BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS is loved and admired in the State of Louisiana as in the State of Mississippi.

It was a source of great personal gratification to me when the people of his congressional district named his son as his successor in Congress, and from my association with WILLIAM Y. HUMPHREYS and joint work in dealing with the same problems I feel that he is a worthy successor to his distinguished father.

Mr. Speaker, when the relentless hand of death removes from the scenes of earthly activity a great and good man, this does not bring to an end the work of his useful life. And while we shall not again recognize the active presence of our departed friend, yet he still lives in the record of his services to his fellow man, to his State, and to his country; he lives in a noble example of unselfish devotion to principle and loyalty to truth, right, and justice; he lives in the memories and fond recollections of his friends; he lives enshrined in the hearts of those who loved him. And thus will continue uninterrupted the work, the influence, the life, and character of this man, an example and an inspiration to us all.

Mr. BYRNS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, there was not a Member of Congress who did not feel a very deep sense of personal loss when the news was flashed over the country on the 16th day of October, 1923, that Hon. BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS, a Representative in Congress from the third Mississippi district, had suddenly passed into the Great Beyond. Having served with him in the Halls of Congress they realized more fully than others that not only the district and the State which he loved so ardently and served so faithfully, but the entire country had lost one of its most able and devoted public servants. And when Congress convened in December and the Members gathered for the session's work, there was sadness among all of his old colleagues because his face would not be seen again, his familiar voice no longer heard, and his advice and counsel no more received.

It can be truly said that no Member of Congress was more universally beloved by his colleagues or shared to a greater degree their respect and confidence. His modest, unassuming manner, his cordial good will; his genial disposition and his pleasing personality made everyone with whom he came in contact his well-wisher and friend. He had that fraternal spirit which caused him to love his fellow man and rejoice to be in his company. There was nothing narrow or selfish in his make-up. Whether in debate or in private conversation the sharp shafts of his ready wit and quick repartee were intended only to please or to drive home an argument and never to purposely or deliberately wound one's feelings. He was forceful in debate and tenacious in his convictions, but never in any sense intolerant toward anyone holding opposite views.

His constituents appreciated his service, for they sent him to Congress 11 terms without opposition, and had he continued to live there is no doubt but what they would have returned him as long as he desired. He took a just pride in their friendship and confidence. He loved his people and valued their confidence more than he did anything else. In return he gave them the best that was in him in service and in fidelity to what he believed to be to their best interest.

And after all, Mr. Speaker, the commendation and confidence of those he serves is the only real compensation a public servant derives from holding office. There is neither honor nor pleasure in holding any office, however great, unless at the close one receives from the people the verdict of "well done." In this sense BEN HUMPHREYS was richly compensated and highly honored by the people he so faithfully served.

He was stricken without warning on the streets of his home city and died in the midst of his lifelong friends. And I dare say if the manner and place of his going had been left to him he would in no way have changed it. He was still in the prime of life and doubtless looked forward to many years of future usefulness, but it was not to be. Under such circumstances death is a dreadful thing to contemplate. We are all loathe to penetrate its mysteries. But it will not be very long until each one of us will have reached the door which opens into the other life and death's mysteries and the future life will be made plain to us as they have been to him. And when that time comes may the way be made easy for us as it was for him in whose memory these services are held by the knowledge

that we will leave behind us a record of faithful service and devotion to duty, and that the world is better because we have lived.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, the custom of the National Congress of setting aside a day on which to commemorate the life, character, and services of a deceased Member is an old one, and on this day a most happy one, for the late BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS was one American Congressman who left his imprint on the recorded history of the Nation. He came to Congress in the year 1902 and served in this body for nearly 20 years. Throughout this time, his labors were chiefly directed toward legislation the purpose of which was to protect the great and fertile valleys of the Mississippi from overflow of that magnificent river. There was no one in this House who ever had as much to do with the reclamation from floods of the Mississippi river as he. At first blush, this might be taken as an accomplishment of small consequence. But when the possibilities of this kind of legislation are understood, the more potential becomes the service that was rendered by him to this Nation and to humanity. Thousands of acres of the best land in the world are producing harvests with which to feed and clothe mankind that would now be dismal, useless, and disease-breeding swamps had it not been for flood-control legislation. And be it said to the credit of BEN HUMPHREYS's vision that he realized that membership in a great legislative body like this means merely that each individual Member is but a cog in a huge machine and hence that it is vitally necessary that the Member build all his efforts on one main, important theme. So he devoted his ability and his fine personality to the perfecting of a set of laws that would save the lands along the Mississippi from overflowing at all times.

In addition to success along this line, BEN HUMPHREYS won another tribute by his work here. This reward was not striven for by him and, in truth, was in his possession before he realized it had been bestowed upon him. I refer to his intense popularity among his fellow Members in the House of Representatives.

He was personally admired and esteemed by practically every man who knew him at all, irrespective of party, regardless of the section of the country from which he came. This was a popularity fairly won by the many attractive traits of character which he possessed, by a genial and a winning personality that never failed to gain entrance to the hearts of his acquaintances, and which drew the love of his friends to him. The varied and gifted attainments which marked his disposition and his character were the natural heritage of a rich background of distinguished antecedents. Of his ancestors, his great grandfather was a colonel in the War of the American Revolution; another was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, while his worthy father was an officer in the War between the States; and later the war governor of his State. Culture and chivalry were the natural blooms of BEN HUMPHREYS's being, and they shed about him the grateful aroma of gracious temperament, gentle manners, mental splendor.

He was an uncommon legislator, conservative to a superlative degree. He was respected by all who knew him—a fine gentleman.

His career is ended here. The final flood that must one day submerge us all has covered him. His associates honor his memory as we prized his worthy friendship. He lies at rest in that peaceful little river town of Greenville, Miss., among his kinsmen, his neighbors, his friends—

The wine of life keeps oozing drop by drop,  
The leaves of life keep falling one by one.

Mr. BARBOUR. Mr. Speaker, BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS served in the House of Representatives from the State of Mississippi for 20 years. The years of his service evidenced the love and esteem in which he was held by the people of his district and afforded him an opportunity to render conspicuous service to those who, in honoring him, had so greatly honored themselves.

His one ambition and desire was to promote the welfare and happiness of his people. The work that he did here will live to their benefit in the years to come.

His kindly and gentle nature, his unfailing courtesy, his keen sense of humor endeared him to all with whom he came in contact. The esteem of his fellow Members was not confined by party lines. It rose above anything political or partisan. The line which divides political parties in the House was obliterated by the love of his fellow Members.

Always a partisan, his partisanship was never offensive but was of the big, broadminded type which commands respect. A



strong advocate, he was never bitter or unkind. Always forceful, courteous, gentle. His colleagues mourn the loss of BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS, one of nature's gentlemen.

Mr. LANHAM. Mr. Speaker, in the passing of the late BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS there has gone from us in our daily associations in this body a true friend, an able and faithful legislator, a Christian gentleman. It is difficult through the poor medium of words to express the high esteem and affectionate regard which he knew during his life that I entertained for him. It is altogether unnecessary now in retrospect to view him through rose-colored glasses, for the sterling traits of his character were so conspicuous as to require no exaggeration of them for the purposes of proper eulogy.

Robert Louis Stevenson once said:

Courage and intelligence are the two qualities best worth a good man's cultivation.

To a marked degree BEN HUMPHREYS had both. There is need always in this body for men of that type.

Reference has properly been made to his intellectual integrity. Defeat can never come to any man until he sacrifices his conscientious convictions. If he casts them aside he is defeated, though he may hold high office the remainder of his life. BEN HUMPHREYS taught in his preaching and practice that wholesome doctrine. He used to like to quote that great fellow Mississippian, Lamar, and I remember especially one quotation he gave that seemed to be typical of his own life and character and conduct. On one occasion Mr. Lamar said to his constituents, when he had incurred their displeasure by reason of some vote:

I would rather deserve your respect than have it.

BEN HUMPHREYS was a man with an accurate sense of appreciation. He knew how to place a proper estimate upon men and measures, and in this ability rested largely his pre-eminence as a legislator. His passing is a loss not only to the House, but to the Nation.

As a friend, he was most genial and kindly and generous. A man of marked versatility, he wrote and spoke with elegant diction. To show the tender ties of a sentiment always close to his heart, I recall that he inscribed a beautiful poem to his charming wife. He gave me a copy of it, and I shall always treasure it. It attests most fittingly the fact that through all his days she remained the fond sweetheart of his early years.

He was remarkable as a story-teller and most appealing as a speaker. I remember that a few years ago, on the occasion of the services in the Congressional Cemetery in honor of that great Indian chieftain, Pushmataha, a storm was approaching as Mr. HUMPHREYS rose to deliver the final address. Despite the threatening weather the vast throng of people remained in rapt attention to listen to this man of matchless wit as he gave an absorbing account of the interesting incidents in the life of this worthy chief.

Above all, BEN HUMPHREYS was a Christian gentleman. It was my pleasure one bright Sunday morning to hear him deliver a lay sermon in this city. His words served further to attest the greatness of a Christian character, of which he had so often given expression in his deeds.

Death, of course, is the common heritage of us all. It is a mystery we can not quite understand. And yet, in the old days, Socrates, before the dawn of the Christian era, said, ere he drank the hemlock, that at the worst death would be "an unspeakable gain, but a sleep like the sleep of him who is undisturbed even by dreams"; and that if we lived again, as he believed, it would afford the chance on the other side to meet and converse with Orpheus and Musæus and Hesiod and Homer, with Palamedes and Ajax, the son of Telamon. We who have come to live in the glorious light of Christian revelation are able more clearly to cast our hope within the veil and to know that in a brighter and better world we shall meet again with this great and genial friend who has gone on before us in the sweet Christian faith which he lived and practiced.

Good-bye, good friend,  
In God's good time,  
In God's good clime  
We'll meet again.  
And in that land  
Where we shall know  
No pain or woe  
We'll understand.

Mr. DRIVER. Mr. Speaker, the late BEN HUMPHREYS was one of the most versatile men with whom I had the pleasure of coming in contact. He possessed the faculties of drawing men to him, and my affections for him dated from my acquaintance in an early year of my life and ripened through the years of an association brought about by mutual interest, and cemented with an association in our service here.

No man entered the Halls of Congress so well prepared for useful service to his immediate section. He came from the Mississippi Delta, one of the fairest and most fertile areas within the confines of our national limits, with a knowledge of the physics and hydraulics of the mighty stream flowing in majestic grandeur along the front of his congressional district and threatening the lives and property of his constituents with recurring overflows. The sole protection against these recurring dangers was in the form of inadequate levees, the product primarily of the individual efforts of the landowners, and which had gradually developed into community organization, but without cooperation or the financial ability to prosecute the enterprise to a connected and consistent completion. The Mississippi River Commission was functioning, but independently of the local agencies and severely handicapped for the want of funds with which to prosecute a systematic plan of improvement. Realizing the urgent necessity for the coordination of effort, he immediately directed his energies and talent to effectually divorce the Mississippi River problems from the general river and harbor work, which resulted in the creation of the Flood Control Committee in the year 1916, and the necessary legislation encompassing the individualization of its improvement in the year 1917 through the labors of such committee, of which he had the honor of being its first chairman.

This legislation provided the basis for contribution, definitely placing the power in the commission to locate the levee line and expend the money from all sources under its immediate direction and supervision, thus providing a thorough coordination between all agencies and guaranteeing the prosecution of the improvement in a consistent and connected way. BEN HUMPHREYS lived to realize the practical completion of the great improvement which to-day gives assurance of protection to 17,000,000 acres of the most productive lands of the world and provision for water transportation for the products of the soil and manufacturing industries of practically one-half of the area and inhabitants of the United States.

This but presents one among the number of valuable contributions made to the Nation as a whole by our deceased colleague, for in addition to the fund of information he possessed touching the waterways and the peculiar conditions existing in his immediate section, he was well versed in matters generally and contributed liberally to the legislation during the whole of his service of 20 years as national legislator.

It may be said without exaggeration that a more popular man never served in this body; for BEN HUMPHREYS there was no middle aisle. He was loved by the Members on each side. Many of his most intimate friends were of the opposite political faith. He was a partisan only in strict party matters, but a partisan in the least offensive way. I heard the late lamented, distinguished legislator, Mr. James R. Mann, of Illinois, say on the floor of the House, shortly before his death, when chided by his colleague on an inconsistent vote to the position he then assumed, that he was forced to frankly admit the charge, but pleaded his attitude was due to the affection cherished for his distinguished friend from Mississippi, Mr. HUMPHREYS, whose personality had frequently caused the members to disregard policy in the support of measures advocated by him. Mr. HUMPHREYS possessed a keen, incisive, and direct method of dissecting a measure and appraising its merits. In this way he reached conclusions, and when convinced expediency and popularity possessed no urge for him. A more independent man in his career as a legislator was not to be found in the Halls of Congress.

His was a strong personality and a many-sided one. He was a student and retained the very best culled from his researches. His sense of humor was highly developed and it was the pleasure of his associates to gather about him on the floor, in the cloak room and hotel lobby, to be regaled with stories from the great storehouse which he possessed. His affection for the negro of the Southland was responsible for the keen insight which he had of the value of negro humor, and he was inimitable in presenting its force and attraction. I had the pleasure of visiting in the attractive home of our deceased colleague, located in the city of Greenville, on the banks of his beloved Mississippi River—a home in which the atmosphere of affection was all pervading, graced with the presence of a regal wife,

a married son and daughter, with the prattle of grandchildren striking pleasantly in his ears—a home in the dazzling sunshine of the Southland, surrounded by the presence and beauty of fully grown roses, BEN HUMPHREYS quietly departed this life and rests in the soil of the land which he so faithfully served, following the devoted services and sacrifices of his ancestors who were high in the councils of his State and transcendent as defenders in the wars of the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, great monuments are erected in honor of those who have contributed valuably to the service of their country and it is well that we commemorate the character and achievements of the distinguished citizens and heroes of our land, but monuments crumble and fall and names are tarnished, but BEN HUMPHREYS has erected a monument to himself in the hearts of the inhabitants of the Mississippi Valley to be handed down from generation to generation, imperishable in measure, and ever present in thought.

A rare tribute was paid to the memory of our departed colleague in the selection of his son, Hon. WILLIAM Y. HUMPHREYS, as his successor in this body. A young man of sterling worth, possessing the most outstanding characteristics of his distinguished father, and whom we hope will round out a legislative career with all of the honor and distinction so justly conferred upon BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS.

Mr. McDUFFIE. Mr. Speaker and gentlemen of the House, Mr. HUMPHREYS possessed those qualities which go to make men truly great. He possessed an intellectual honesty that was superb and a courage, both moral and physical, that is rare amongst men. His gentleness and modesty were most attractive, while his ability made him an outstanding figure in his day and generation. He was of the type of statesmanship, in my judgment, to which we must look for the preservation and perpetuity of the ideals and institutions of this great American democracy.

We have heard men speak to-day of his wonderful ability to accomplish results in the Congress, especially for people of the district he represented so well. Truly, he was easily the most popular Member on either side of the aisle, but his accomplishments were not all due solely to his personal magnetism. He accomplished things not only because the Members knew he was perfectly sincere but because he always possessed information and was able to impart that information in a most convincing manner. He possessed an untiring energy and devoted himself most assiduously to his legislative duties. No man ever questioned his integrity nor doubted the sincerity of his purpose.

Mr. HUMPHREYS was intensely loyal to his district, which he served with such distinction for more than 20 years. He was proud of his constituency and they were justly proud of him. He loved his home city and its people. Many times I have heard him refer to Greenville and Washington County, Miss., with admiration and affection, while the Mississippi River, of the old days and the new, was one of his favorite themes. He was devoted to his State. He loved the Southland with all its splendid traditions. He entertained that respect and care for the fundamentals of our Government that made him a great patriot and a statesman whose broad vision and remarkable service is recognized and appreciated in every State of the Union. He came of that old school of the South whose traditions men and women everywhere will continue to admire, and he exemplified those noble qualities of manhood that were so characteristic of a long and illustrious line of distinguished ancestors.

As an historian Mr. HUMPHREYS contributed much to the record of the pioneer life of the Mississippi territory. Few men had more accurate information about the history of the State of Mississippi from its early days of the great Choctaw chief, Pushmataha, to the present days of its highly enlightened progress and development. In song and in story he has told of the Old Southland in his own inimitable style. His works in this regard have not only added much to the history of those times but will delight future generations of Mississippians.

Mr. HUMPHREYS was the son of Governor Humphreys, who returned to his native State after a brave and brilliant service as a brigadier general in the Confederate States Army. Just at the close of that great conflict, when the passions of men were running high and the heat of battle had just subsided, General Humphreys was elected Governor of Mississippi by practically a unanimous vote of all the people, both white and colored. I am told that the memory of General Humphreys, afterwards Governor Humphreys, will live forever in the hearts and minds of Mississippians. He handed down to his son,

BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS, those fine qualities of courage and statesmanship which marked his career as a Member of Congress. I am glad to say these eminent qualifications for statesmanship and patriotic service did not stop with the second generation.

I was very happy, indeed this whole House was proud, to welcome here as one of its Members the Hon. WILLIAM YERGER HUMPHREYS. The third district of Mississippi is to be congratulated in choosing him to step into the shoes of his distinguished father and carry out his plans for progress and development. He has already shown the qualities of his father. He is a worthy son of a noble sire. We have not only enjoyed our association with him in the work of the Congress but we have grown to respect his ability and realize his great usefulness here even at this early day. I am sure Mr. HUMPHREYS would be happy to know that his only son is following in the footsteps of his father as a useful Member of this body.

Mr. HUMPHREYS was a lover of music. Indeed, there was music in his very soul. He loved the beautiful in thought, in word, and deed. He loved it in the character of men and women. I believe he loved his fellow man as much or more than anyone I ever knew. He knew and understood men and drew them close to him. He "walked with kings and never lost the common touch."

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible for me to find words that might adequately express my feelings when I learned of the death of Mr. HUMPHREYS. His death was a distinct personal loss to me and my family. It happened I learned of it too late to reach Greenville, where I would have gone to pay my last respects on the memorable day of his funeral.

Soon after I came to Congress I made the acquaintance of this good man, and during a greater part of the time since I met him we lived at the same hotel here in Washington. Our families became fond of each other, and I grew more and more fond of Mr. HUMPHREYS as the days went by. I have lost not merely a friendly acquaintance but a real friend, one whom I was proud to claim as my friend. His friendship was both delightful and valuable to me. His memory will be treasured so long as I live. I found in him one to whom I could go for advice upon problems that troubled me when I first came to Congress, and as I turned to him, he always received me with that kindly and gracious manner so pronounced in him, and gave me the benefit of his able suggestions and sound advice.

His devotion to his family was beautiful. His wife is one of the most charming ladies I have ever known, and she always shared with him the love of hosts of friends here and elsewhere. She, like Mr. HUMPHREYS, also came from the best blood of the old South. She is typical of that old school of southern womanhood, the queen roses in the garden of our civilization. Mr. HUMPHREYS, therefore, during his long years of honorable and remarkable service was blessed in having at his side a most lovable, cultured, gentle, sweet, and helpful companion.

I have no doubt had he lived he could have continued to represent his district in Congress as long as he cared to serve. His service was not confined to his district, but it was nationwide, and his death was a distinct loss not only to Mississippi but to the whole Nation. His record of service as a lawyer, soldier, statesman, and historian is an enduring monument to his genius and patriotism, and will continue to be an inspiration for those who come after him.

It might be truly said of BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS that "His life was gentle, and the elements so mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world, 'This was a man.'" And in the words of Tennyson:

His strength was as the strength of ten,  
Because his heart was pure.

Mr. RANKIN. Mr. Speaker, as I have listened to the eulogies pronounced by the distinguished Members of this body on the life of our late lamented colleague, BEN G. HUMPHREYS, I have realized more fully my inability to meet the demand of this solemn occasion. In formal studied phrases those who knew him best have paid their tributes of respect, while I, who might be numbered among his newly made friends, must come in all humility, as well as all sincerity, to place a flower upon his grave.

I never knew Mr. HUMPHREYS until I entered the Sixty-seventh Congress, but I learned to love him and to admire him as time passed away. He was a worthy representative of one of the most distinguished families of the Old South, and embodied in his very make-up the characteristics and traditions of the Anglo-Saxon race. His father was a general in the Confederate Army and the Governor of Mississippi during the trying times of reconstruction, when one of my lineal ancestors



was a member of that constitutional convention called by the white people of the State immediately after the cessation of hostilities in 1865 to readjust our organic laws to meet the new conditions.

Although removed from his position by the Federal Government, no power on earth could remove Governor Humphreys from the affections of his fellow Mississippians, whose posterity to-day revere his name, and honor the memory of his distinguished son.

BEN HUMPHREYS came upon the stage of action at a time in the history of the South that tried the souls of men. He sat at the feet of Jefferson Davis, perhaps the most illustrious son that the Southland produced, or that the world produced, during the troublous times of the Civil War and reconstruction, and imbibed not only the spirit but the traditions of the Old South.

When the war clouds of 1898 lowered upon the horizon, and it looked as if America might be involved in a world catastrophe, such as burst upon us in 1914, he sustained the family record by entering the service and offering himself as a sacrifice upon the altar of his country.

He came to Congress 22 years ago, and served consecutively almost throughout 11 terms, and I dare say that no man in the history of this great body more impressed himself upon the hearts and minds of his fellow Members than did he. Not only was he loved and admired on the Democratic side because of his wonderful personality, his amiable character, his inexhaustible store of information, but his attraction even spread and led captive his captors on the other side of the aisle.

Some one has said, with reference to these friendships which spring up between members of different political parties in this body, that they are the flowers which overhang the walls of party politics. Measured by that standard, truly if BEN HUMPHREYS had his just deserts he would sleep to-day beneath a wilderness of roses; for in all my acquaintance in national life I have never known a man who was more generally beloved, more greatly admired, or more highly esteemed by those who disagreed with him politically than the late BEN HUMPHREYS of Mississippi.

Perhaps his generous impulses and genial personality did more to allay the feelings of bitterness and dispel the animosities formerly existing between the two sides of the House, and wipe out the aisle that marked the dividing line than any other influence that has entered this body since reconstruction days.

Not only was he a statesman, but he was a historian in the true sense of the word. He knew the history of his State from the inception of its Territorial government, and even went beyond and studied and understood the real history embodied in the traditions of the race. The common law of our people constitutes the real foundation upon which is built our civilization as the outgrowth of the Anglo-Saxon civilization, perhaps the only civilization that is to-day successfully standing the strain of twentieth century conditions. It is the real law, the real fundamental constitution, that has shaped the destinies of the world.

Perhaps no man who has served in this body since antebellum days was more familiar with that tradition than our late lamented friend. Not only that, but he went further in his researches and brought down to use the traditions of a race that preceded us on the soil of Mississippi—the aborigines of America, the Choctaw and the Chickasaw Indians, the most highly civilized of all the original American tribes. He knew more about them than any other living Mississippian, and it has been my profound pleasure, as well as a source of information, to hear him discuss their habits, their laws, and their modes of life. When the white man came into our State—that is, the English-speaking white man, after these great tribes had resisted the French and the Spaniards in their insatiable greed—when our ancestors came there, they were welcomed with outstretched arms, and so far as recorded history shows none of these tribes ever shed the blood of an English-speaking white man.

Unfortunately when the country became crowded and their lands were needed for our subsistence, they extinguished their camp fires, turned their faces toward the setting sun, obliterated their records, and disappeared to live only in the traditions of the white race. No man perhaps in the history of our great State has endeavored more to unravel, to dig up, and perpetuate the history of those people than did Mr. HUMPHREYS. The last conversation I ever had with him he promised to come and visit me to go over the old fields where De Soto and Blenville combated the Chickasaws, in order that he might ferret out some of the hidden facts of that unwritten history of this departed race, that it might go down

to future generations of Mississippians and furnish inspiration to those who live hereafter.

He was devoted to those principles of Government upon which he believed our civilization rests, and always manifested the courage of his convictions no matter how heated the contest grew on the floor of the House. Permit me to say on this occasion that if I were asked to pick out the one man who, in my opinion, of all the men with whom I have been associated in national life, embodied the characteristics of the Old South I would not hesitate to point out Mr. HUMPHREYS of the third district, who for 20 years ably and efficiently represented his people on the floor of this body, and who is succeeded by his distinguished son.

Owing to our short association I knew little of his home life, but I was well acquainted with Mrs. Humphreys, and I have often remarked that she embodied the highest of everything that could be attributed to the womanhood of Dixie, which is the last word in Christian civilization.

I attended his funeral, and as his remains sank to rest in the soil he loved so well, a storm which had raged for days seemed to break. The sun glimmered through the rifts of the clouds, while from a neighboring magnolia a mocking bird trilled his evening lay—a fitting close to a great life.

The sunlight of history will reveal his many virtues and his noble qualities, while the voice of praise will sing his requiem throughout generations yet to come.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, to serve in this, the greatest legislative body in the world, is a proud distinction for any man. To render that service acceptably to those who have honored him and to the credit of the Nation for which it is rendered is an added distinction. To perform one's duties courageously in periods of storm and stress as well as in times of peace and harmony is a test of success in public life.

BEN HUMPHREYS met all of these requirements, and in addition to that won the respect and admiration of every man with whom he served. During the time of my service here I have known of no man who was more universally loved than was he.

It was my pleasure and privilege to have an intimate association with "Marse Ben," as his friends affectionately called him. I sat at the same table for several years. I have been with him during the periods of recreation which serve to brighten our lives and lessen the strain of the work. I have been with him when the task called for decision and for action of tremendous importance. I have seen him at his desk when the numerous calls of a busy office demanded attention. And always and everywhere he was the same clear-eyed, bright-minded, whole-souled, big-hearted, generous, genial, capable, and happy B. G. HUMPHREYS, typical of America and her institutions.

Since I left the portals of my father's home when my boyish visions were just turning into manhood's activities, I have not known anyone who meant more to me personally. I miss him and his chosen companion—one of the most gracious women in America, and who since his passing has not been with us in Washington—more than language can tell. Their kindness to me and to one whose happiness is mine can never be forgotten.

There was no malice in BEN HUMPHREYS's disposition, nor evil intent. I do not believe he ever injured anyone and I know that he never wronged anyone. He lived unostentatiously, according to the principles and philosophy of Him in whose image we are all created, not in a long-faced way, but in the best and finest fashion. His disposition was as sunny as his smile, and his smile was as never failing as the morning sunrise. If the ancient philosopher was right when he said that there is a special place set apart in that other world for those who love their country with an intense devotion then BEN HUMPHREYS is entitled to a seat with the immortals.

I shall not attempt to pronounce a long eulogy. No language can adequately portray. There is the life. In itself that is a perpetual eulogy to the finest qualities of friendship and the highest attributes of citizenship.

A great character, a companionable friend, in whose passing every Member of Congress felt a personal loss; a gentleman by birth, training, and culture—BEN HUMPHREYS was a magnificent tribute to the manhood of Mississippi and the Nation.

Mr. DAVILA. Mr. Speaker, if I were asked for a parallel for the esteem in which all Americans hold the name of Pitt, I would say that it is to be found in the affection in which the memory of HUMPHREYS is held in every home in Porto Rico.

The same fine courage, the same hatred of arbitrariness which caused the English statesman to stand up in a Tory Parliament and plead the cause of the American Colonies, in-



spired BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS of Mississippi, in this Hall, to raise his voice for Porto Rico in order that her people might be relieved from the administration of an intolerable executive.

Few men whom I have met possessed, as did he, so many of the sterling qualities of life, and I do not believe my appreciation of them can be better expressed than it was in the message announcing his death, which I sent to Hon. Antonio Barcelo, president of the Porto Rican Senate. I said:

By cable, I have just communicated to you the death of Mr. HUMPHREYS. When I heard of it I was deeply touched, for it is my sincere belief that his was one of the most noble souls that has passed across the stage of life. Of inflexible character, of unbending integrity, he instinctively inspired respect, while at the same time winning the most devoted affection by reason of his nobility and generosity. He was modest without affectation; energetic without ostentation; possessed of an agreeable address; facile of expression, he knew how to harmonize rectitude with graciousness, and all who came in contact with him instinctively felt the influence of his personal charm.

His was a cultivated spirit, wise, prudent, and discreet. He was not actuated by anger or sudden impulse but by moderation and equanimity. His acts were always guided by reflection.

HUMPHREYS was the disinterested champion of all just causes to which he devoted all of his energy with the enthusiasm of a crusader and abnegation of an apostle. His attitude in the Reily imbroglio was a splendid example of civic virtue that can never be forgotten by us. It would have been difficult to have found in either the Democratic or Republican ranks another champion so qualified to enter the lists and break a lance in our favor. All of the Representatives sympathized with our island, but none so ready as he to declare publicly in our behalf—the Republicans through loyalty to the administration and the Democrats because of insufficient interest in some instances and in others because they did not want to embarrass the administration in its politics with the insular possessions. Others professed to be too busy with other matters.

HUMPHREYS, when once aware of the justice of our demands, made himself the champion of our cause. His eloquent and sincere voice was heard in the House of Representatives appealing to the American Congress that the appeal of our people for an impartial investigation be heard.

Porto Rico never had in the American Congress two more disinterested champions than Towner, our present beloved Governor, and HUMPHREYS. There was great similarity between the two in their high conception of justice, integrity of character, and mental cultivation.

Our people ought to shed tears for the passing of this just and generous man who did not hesitate in espousing our cause in the most critical hour of our history.

That message, in brief, Mr. Speaker, sums up my estimate of Representative HUMPHREYS. I believe I can truly say that it also represents the feelings of all Porto Ricans, in whose affections and in whose history he has made for himself an imperishable place.

To those who are acquainted with his life history it seems but natural that he should have been our champion on this floor, and the inscrutable workings of destiny are almost revealed in his selection for that task. He was born in the strife of civil conflict, and when but an infant his father, Brig. Gen. Benjamin G. Humphreys, who at the close of the Civil War had been elected Governor of Mississippi, was driven from office as a result of the bitter struggle during the trying times of reconstruction.

Mr. HUMPHREYS cherished in his heart nothing that suggested "unreconstruction." He, like all you gentlemen from the South, was loyal to the core. His service as a soldier in Cuba under General Fitzhugh Lee, another southerner, during the Spanish-American War, and his oath and duties here prove his loyalty and devotion. But the great wrong which the people of his State believed had been committed on the people of Mississippi by the imposition of an alien executive had made an indelible impression upon him, and when after the flight of time Porto Rico was suffering under similar conditions, the heart of the great Mississippian rebelled and the thunder of his eloquence was heard in these Halls in protest.

Fortunately for Porto Rico, our champion enjoyed to an unusual degree the confidence and esteem of his colleagues. I may digress for a moment when I point out that undeniable proof of this is to be found in the records of the last Congress. I was an interested spectator on this floor in the closing hours of that session when the Mississippi River flood control bill was under consideration.

It was a measure that carried an appropriation of millions of dollars and we all know how zealously the party in power

guards all legislation of that character. But there was a departure from the rule on that occasion and a splendid exhibition of confidence which knows no party lines. The incident was impressed upon my mind when the chairman of the committee, Mr. ROSENBERG, of Illinois, a Republican, pointing to our departed friend, said:

The author of the flood control act, Mr. HUMPHREYS of Mississippi, is a member of the committee that reported this bill. He has made a more exhaustive study of the question of flood control than any other man in this body, and no one is so well qualified to give expert advice as he. He lives in the section of the country that is vitally affected by this legislation, and he knows in every detail the work that has been done and that must be done; and in order to conserve the time of the House, I will ask the distinguished gentleman from Mississippi to explain the details of the bill.

The applause following that generous exhibition of confidence is still ringing in my ears. Mr. HUMPHREYS assumed charge of the measure and it is needless to say that he discharged his task to the satisfaction of Republicans and Democrats alike. It was this confidence, which all Members of Congress had in the man, that won our cause many friends, once he had espoused it.

His speech delivered on this floor April 12, 1922, will be a model for all time. That speech, characterized by historical research, patriotism of the highest order, moderation of feeling and expression, but withal by a determination to see that justice was accorded our people, was the beginning of the end of our troubles.

He focused the attention of Congress and the country on the intolerable conditions in Porto Rico and these were terminated by the resignation of the offending governor.

Mr. HUMPHREYS's place is established in history. As the author of the flood control legislation he will live for all time in the hearts of the people along the lower reaches of the Mississippi, and the act for the control of floods, which is his handiwork, will survive long after monuments of marble and granite have crumbled into dust.

His cultivated mind and particularly his thorough grasp of history made him a charming companion. Especially was he well versed in all the records, traditions, and lore of the great river, the Father of Waters, to the improvement of which he dedicated his life. He knew that the early explorers of that river and the Southern country came from the islands of the Caribbean Sea; that Ponce de Leon, the first Governor of Porto Rico, was in the vanguard, and that Hernando de Soto, the actual discoverer, had been buried in the bosom of the mighty stream almost opposite his own home. The hardships and adventures of those explorers had fired his imagination as a boy, and it was a pleasing fancy of his as he approached the journey's end that he could enlist his aid in the cause of the people from whom the heroes of his boyhood fancy sprang.

I am proud that BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS was my friend. I would be amiss in my duty to the people of Porto Rico unless I to-day paid tribute to the memory of the man whom they loved, honored, and respected.

Peace to his ashes.

Mr. LOWREY. Mr. Speaker, when I was elected to the Sixty-seventh Congress one of the first and one of the most appreciated expressions that I received was a telegram of congratulation from BEN HUMPHREYS, as we loved to call him in Mississippi. I appreciated that message, because I looked upon him then as the real dean of the Mississippi delegation in Washington, and because I knew something of the service that he and his illustrious father and family had rendered to my native State. Especially did I know of the obligation under which the whole State has been placed to BEN HUMPHREYS by reason of his long and faithful, able, and efficient service on flood control, the effective work that he has done in saving our State from the dangers and hardships of the overflows of the Mississippi.

When I came to Washington to enter the Congress he very soon won me, as he won all of his colleagues by his charming personality, his great kindness of heart, his genial humor, his innumerable attractive traits of character. When he passed away I was just beginning to recover from a spell of sickness which had kept me in my room for some time and it was impossible for me to make the trip to pay my last tribute of respect by attendance upon his funeral. One of the newspaper men asked me for an expression of my estimate of BEN HUMPHREYS and my sentiment toward him. In that expression I emphasized the thought that has been emphasized here to-day, especially by the gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. RANKIN, because I, too, had been impressed that Mr. HUMPHREYS, per-

haps, above any man that I had known, embodied the finest traits of the gentleman of the old South.

The unique and attractive character of the old-time Southern gentleman is proverbial. He has always commanded and will ever command the love and admiration of a thoughtful world. He may have been proud, but he at least neither cringed nor fawned before any mortal man, and he had dignity and chivalry, love for childhood, and respect for women. His honor was sacred and he allowed no man to impugn it. He cherished freedom and independence, both personal and political, and turned naturally to the study of liberty and statecraft. Such was the character of the gentlemen of the old South.

Of this tribe came a long line of Southern statesmen, jurists, and warriors, from Thomas Jefferson to Jefferson Davis, from John Marshall to Chief Justice White, from Washington to Lee and Jackson, a coterie of great leaders in every line, whose patriotism and ability marked every step in our country's progress from the days of the colonies to the days of reconstruction which followed the Civil War.

Of this tribe came BEN HUMPHREYS, and I can pay no higher tribute than to say that he measured up to the best standards and traditions of his lineage. True he came after the days of the old South, but not too late to share its best blood and its best traditions. His father was of the old southern stock, a brave Confederate general, a governor of his State, and his gifted son lacked nothing of the high characteristics that have distinguished the line. King David, in his old age, as he recounted the blessings of God upon his great life, reached the climax in the statement, "And Thou hast given me this great blessing in that Thou hast given me a son to sit upon the throne." God gives to no man in the course of this life a greater honor or a greater blessing than a royal son. BEN HUMPHREYS was a royal son of a royal father, and royally he wore his honors. He represented the State that has been represented in this Capitol by Davis, by Lamar, by Walthall, by George, and by John Sharp Williams, and he was worthy of the men with whose names his name is associated. He served with consecration, with ability and distinction. He rests from his labors and his works do follow him. Those of us whom he has left behind honor his high character and love his memory. May we emulate his splendid virtues.

Mr. WILSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I stood not so long ago in a court room in Mississippi and assisted in the prosecution of a man charged with murder. The evidence showed beyond question that the defendant was guilty of murder in the first degree. A great crowd had gathered in the courthouse to hear the weird story of the assassination of a good man. I heard the counsel for the defense as they pleaded with the jury for the life of the accused. I could almost see sympathetic hearts as they reached out and took hold of the "living" man. I told the jury that day that the saddest thing always connected with a murder case to me was not the taking of human life; that was sad enough, for as I stood in the court room that day and looked at a poor, broken-hearted widow, with four little fatherless children about her apron strings, my heart broke within me. But the saddest fact connected with every murder case is the disposition of the living to forget their obligation to the dead. Ordinarily, when a man is removed from society, when his lips are sealed by death, and when he is placed in the narrow confines of the grave, the world is inclined to turn away from that sacred mound and to forget the one who slumbers there. Ah, my friends, death is an awful thing. It knocks with equal hand at the door of the palace and at the door of the peasant's hut. The poet truly said:

Who is the mighty?  
Who is the strong?  
Pontiff, and priest, and sceptered throng?  
On all these must fall, as heavily,  
The hand of death,  
As when it stays the shepherd's breath  
Beside his stall.

It is not so much the thought of death though that disturbs the hearts of men, as it is the thought that after death we will be forgotten. This awful thought is infinitely worse than the thought of death and gives to the grave its horror and its sting. It is the longing of every human soul to be remembered, and out of this longing has grown the beautiful custom of holding these memorial services, the purpose of which is to see that the memory of our friends shall never die.

But, gentlemen, the memory of a man like BENJAMIN GRUBB HUMPHREYS could never fade from the minds of those who loved him. He needs no marble shaft to remind those who come after him that he once lived, for he took the pen staff

of human service while he yet lived and wrote his epitaph forever upon the hearts of his fellow citizens. His was a long and honorable career in the public service. He was born in Claiborne County, Miss., August 17, 1865. He was a noble son of a noble race. He came from that sturdy race known as the Northmen, who accompanied the Duke of Normandy on his invasion and conquest of England in A. D. 1066. His father was Benjamin G. Humphreys, a brigadier general in the Confederate Army and Governor of Mississippi from 1865 to 1868. His mother, before her marriage, was Mildred Hickman Maury, of Tennessee. He was educated in the public schools of Lexington, Miss., and at the University of Mississippi. He was engaged for years in mercantile pursuits, and was a commercial traveler. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1891. He served as Superintendent of Education for Leflore County for 15 years. He served the people faithfully as district attorney for many years. He volunteered and raised a company that went to the front in 1898 in our war with Spain. In 1902 he was elected to Congress. Had he lived to serve his last term in Congress, he would have had a continuous service here of 22 years, the longest term of service ever enjoyed by any other citizen from my State. They never thought of opposition to BEN HUMPHREYS in his district in Mississippi, for his people loved him with a passionate devotion and their confidence in his integrity and ability knew no bounds.

His services in Congress were conspicuous. I do not think it would be an exaggeration to say that he was the most popular and the most beloved character in Congress. He was able to get much for his people even at the hands of a Republican Congress, for men of all political faiths knew and loved him, and they delighted in serving and honoring him.

He came to Congress determined to see to it that the people of his district, who lived along the banks of the "Father of Waters," and who were exposed to overflows, were protected. It was a splendid thing to watch him as he brought his great abilities to bear upon this undertaking. He was responsible for the organization of the Flood Control Committee, taking the Mississippi River legislation out of the Rivers and Harbors Committee. As has been well said, "BEN HUMPHREYS's death carried away more information about the Mississippi River and its problems than the sum total of all that is left." The lower branch of Congress, largely attributable to his splendid efforts and to the efforts of his son, WILL Y. HUMPHREYS, who succeeded him, but recently has appropriated \$10,000,000 for the protection of the people he loved so well. Oh, how happy it would make his great heart if he knew that his son was in this body now carrying to a successful conclusion the great work he so ably initiated. As a testimonial of the esteem in which BEN HUMPHREYS was held by his coworkers in Congress, WILL Y. HUMPHREYS, even though he has been here but a few months, to-day occupies a place in this House that it would ordinarily take a man, regardless of his mental attainments, 15 or 20 years to attain.

BEN HUMPHREYS loved his God and his fellow man, but of all humanity he loved best the wife of his bosom. He married Miss Louise Yerger, of Greenville, Miss., October 9, 1889. The devotion between these two souls was beautiful. The Christmas before he died he wrote these lines:

#### TO LOUISE

I dreamed a dream of the morning  
When the shadows lay far to the west;  
Of a rose-tinted, wondrous dawning  
When the blue birds were making their nest.  
As I watched my dream day a burning  
A fairy of radiant hue  
Came out of the purple morning  
And, sweetheart, that fairy was you.

I dreamed a dream of the evening  
When the shadows had slid back east,  
And the merry bells of the morning  
Tolled the Angelus of the priest.  
As I watched the magic blending  
Of silver, and gold, and blue  
A queen came out of the sunset,  
And, sweetheart, that queen was you.

Then I roused me out of my dreaming  
And got me up with a will  
And the high sun still was beaming  
And the blue birds nesting still;  
The morn and evening had ended—  
The gold and rose-tinted hue—  
And the queen and the fairy had blended  
In the living presence of you.



So while on this hallowed morning—  
The day of the Christ Child's birth—  
With a contrite heart I am thankful  
For the vouchsafed joys of earth;  
For the promised glow of the sunset,  
For the dawn with its saffron hue,  
For its struggles and promised triumphs,  
I'm thankfullest, most, for you.

After their marriage they went to the old homestead that was located where Itta Bena now stands. BEN HUMPHREYS often told about an old darkey who in his zeal to fix up the place for the reception of his young master nailed a board over a hole in a post. The hole had been used by some blue birds for nesting purposes. When BEN HUMPHREYS saw what had been done, he tore the board aloose and instead of putting it over the hole in the post, he nailed it down by the side so the little blue birds could find a resting place near the home. This was indicative of the character of BEN HUMPHREYS. He loved everything—birds and flowers and people. His great heart was too full of love for hate to find lodgment there. Even though a man of splendid mental attainments, if I were called upon to put my hand upon the thing above all others that made BEN HUMPHREYS great, I would place my hand upon his heart. I know that he is not dead, for it is written somewhere in the Blessed Book that "we know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren."

BEN HUMPHREYS had many attainments. He was a gentleman. He was a man whose conduct proceeded from good will and an acute sense of propriety and whose self-control was equal to all emergencies; he did not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; he humbled himself if necessity compelled him to humble another; he did not flatter wealth, nor cringe before power, nor boast of his own possessions or achievements; he spoke with frankness, but always with sincerity and sympathy, and his deeds followed his word; he thought of the rights and feelings of others rather than of his own; he appeared well in any company; and he was at home what he seemed to be abroad—a man with whom honor was sacred and virtue safe. He was a statesman. He was a Christian citizen. Many of you might not be aware of it, but he was a poet of wonderful ability. He enjoyed writing about the old-time Southern darkey. He wrote Dilcey, this old plantation song:

## DILCEY

Dar's a land far, far away  
Dat we'll never see, dey say  
Twell de angels come and bring us back de days  
We spent when we was young,  
Wid all de songs we sung  
And all de good old fashion ways.  
But some times in my dreams I can see it  
And it seems de old plantation's come to life agin.  
I can hear de darkies sing,  
Hear old Booker's banjo ring,  
And Dilcey's voice a-jinin' in.

## (Chorus)

When de moon was climbin' high  
Whar de cypress kissed de sky  
And de big old hoot-owl  
Used to ask us: "Who?"  
I'd take my banjo long  
And we'd answer in our song,  
A-dancin' on de old Yazoo.

## II

On a bright October night  
When de cotton fields was white  
I brought my Dilcey to my cabin home;  
And ev' day since den  
My only thoughts has been  
Of de joy she brought me when she come.  
We use to sit at nights,  
Watch de steamboat's flick'r'n' lights,  
And hear her whistle blowin' round de bend.  
When we'd hear de deck hands sing,  
Hear de bells begin to ring,  
We'd know our fun was comin' den.

## III

But our dreams will pass away  
And I reckon, like dey say,  
De old plantation days is gone for good;  
But I'm watching in de stars  
Whar dey has dem chariot cars

For I knows she'd take me ef she could.  
It's twenty years and more  
Since dey took her fum my door  
And laid her whar our little childn sleeps,  
But her picture's in my heart  
And I know it won't depart  
Hits de one my 'membrance loves to keep.

## IV

I know my race is run,  
Dat my time is almost come,  
For dese legs can't hardly tote my body round.  
But my heart is gittin' young  
For I hears de songs she sung  
Ev' time I lays dis old head down.  
Hush! I hears 'em singin' now.  
Dilcey's learned dem angles how.  
Listen! All my dreams is comin' true;  
I can hear de dancers call  
"S'lute yo' pardners, balance all!"  
And I'll jine 'em like I used to do.

Then he wrote My Black Verbena:

## MY BLACK VERBENA

Way down yonder in Issaquena  
Whar de white folks sits in de shade,  
Dar I met my big Black Verbena—  
She's the sweetest gal ever was made.

Her face so black dat de white folks never seen her  
When she rambled round in de dark,  
But I knowed she was dar,  
From the puffume of her hair,  
And de way day my coon dogs bark.  
I'm a conscious objector when it comes to war,  
I plays a shepherd's lute in de White Dove band,  
But when it comes to women,  
When it comes to women,  
Oh, when it comes to women,  
I'm a dang'ous man.

Was a little yaller coon fum up in Coahoma  
Come a draggin' his wing roun' dat chile,  
He lowed he liked dat same sweet aroma  
And de way 'at she throwed her smile.  
He called hisself a gamberlin' roamer  
And he strutted a bull doozin' way.  
He 'lowed he 'uz gwiner pluck  
Dat Black Verbena bud and  
Put her in his own boquet.

Now, I ain't attter trouble wid no gamberlin' man;  
I'm no sturb maker; I'm a family man.  
When de guns begins to shootin',  
I'm dat man dat ran,  
But when it comes to women,  
When it comes to women,  
Oh, when it comes to women,  
I'm a dang'ous man!

And he wrote many other poems that will enrich our Southern literature.

His death on October 16, 1923, was sudden and without warning. It came as a bolt of lightning out of a clear sky. It was a shock to our entire country. Many who had known him best and loved him most could hardly realize it. I shall never forget the day when we took all that was mortal of him out to the cemetery in Greenville, Miss. It was an awful day. The tears were even dropping from God's heaven, and everything and everybody seemed to be sad. Great crowds stood with bared heads and heavy hearts to pay a last silent tribute to the man whom they honored and loved.

But, my friends, BEN HUMPHREYS is not dead. He only sleeps that sleep that knows no awakening until resurrection morn. We remember that in the long ago, early one morning the good women sought our Savior in the new-made tomb, and when they looked in and found him not, it was an angel who broke the stillness of that awful hour and said:

He is not here; He is risen.

And as we think of BEN HUMPHREYS to-day, that voice seems to echo back across the centuries:

He is not dead; he is risen.

Risen not in imagination, not in a dream, but into that higher and grander and better life where men never die and flowers bloom on forever.

We all know that somewhere beyond this vale of tears there is immortal life, where the tired eyes of men open to the bliss-

ful light of immortality. The stars do not go down. They only arise on another shore. They shine always, somewhere, bright jewels in the great dome of Heaven. Flowers fade and pass away, the leaves fall, but they are not dead; they only wait through the cold winter months the coming again of summer and the sweet warm breezes of springtime.

Our departed friend, BEN HUMPHREYS, whom we remember this Sabbath day, is not dead. He merely sailed away not long ago in the hush of the pale twilight through the purple shadows out on the ebbing tide into the unknown sea, on toward the far off mystic isles, where in a safe anchorage lie the craft of those who have gone before. Let us, as we meet here to-day, reconsecrate and rededicate our lives anew to the splendid virtues that crowned the life of that good man, so that we, some day, somewhere, by the grace of God, "may in some brighter clime bid him good morning."

Mr. CLANCY. Mr. Speaker, I presume to speak for Michigan, and I say to you many in Michigan grieve too for Mississippi's loss. The far north of our common country extends to the far south its sincere sympathy.

For your loss was our loss. Congressman BEN HUMPHREYS was our friend, and whenever Michigan wanted anything in Congress during recent years, he was always counted upon as a powerful ally and advocate for our cause.

When I say Michigan, I mean more particularly the heart of Michigan, Detroit, that wonder city which men hail not only in this country but all over the world as a benefactor of mankind, that blessed city whose products, such as medicines, automobiles, flying machines, and a score of others, make life easier and happier for humanity everywhere, and whose doctrines of high wages, short hours, and honest magnanimous dealings lift up the heart and spirit of toiling millions everywhere where a precarious living must be earned by the sweat of one's brow.

I speak not only for myself as a representative of Detroit in Congress but for the mayor of Detroit, Frank E. Doremus, an able and much-beloved man, who has been honored more signally by Michigan during the past 40 years than any other Michigan citizen.

He loved BEN HUMPHREYS, and the love was mutual. They were constantly together—great hearts, great minds, great spirits—they were as Damon and Pythias.

I was Secretary to Congressman Doremus when he first came to Washington in 1911, and I saw much of Mr. HUMPHREYS. I had a deep affection for him—he was so kind, so genial, so capable, so willing to help by bestowing a kindly greeting of smile or word, the small things that make the day brighter. He was just as quick to give assistance in his powerful, effective manner by deed or action.

That was what made him valuable to his district. That was why he always commanded the strength of Mr. Doremus when Mississippi needed anything. He helped and was helped. For Mr. Doremus was powerful, too—in Congress, in the White House, and in the departments and bureaus of Government. He was the party leader in election time, chairman of the Congressional campaign committee.

Twice Mr. Doremus gained the House and Senate for the Democratic party, and the Democrats had never carried the House and Senate twice in succession since the dread Civil War. And Mr. Doremus was at the command of Mr. HUMPHREYS.

But that was true of BEN HUMPHREYS—the bigger the man, the more he was willing and anxious to serve BEN, and that applied not only to Democrats but to Republicans.

Just yesterday I was riding around the Speedway with our brilliant floor leader, Congressman FINIS GARRETT, of Tennessee, and he passed judgment upon BEN HUMPHREYS.

I have been here many years and I have seen but very few really big men, said Mr. GARRETT. One of these was BEN HUMPHREYS. He was a good, lovable man; a master of the art and science of politics. He was a tremendous asset to Mississippi and to the country.

What more can be said of your dead leader? He was a loss to Detroit; at present the loss of any Mississippi Senator or Representative is a loss to my city and my State.

We see in the budding statesmanship and abilities of his son, WILL HUMPHREYS, the virtues of the father. Not often is it "like father, like son." But here, the eagle has begotten an eaglet.

Napoleon tried to beget an eaglet to carry on his dynasty and he called his son "The Eaglet," but his royal son was an eaglet in name only—he lacked all the weapons of offense and defense, the eye and spirit, the beak and the claws, the wings

to soar. All he had were the tail feathers, and those were soon plucked from him.

But not so WILL HUMPHREYS; he had none of the pomp and pride of an illustrious family, but he had the independence and the confidence of latent powers rapidly developing.

He and his boon companion, Congressman WEBBER WILSON, a man of exceptional brilliancy and talent, have been my constant chums since I came to Congress, and they have already a wide circle of friends in the House whose influence they can always claim for Mississippi.

So, too, it is my proud boast that for 13 years my dearest and most powerful friend is another Mississippian, in my opinion, the ablest and most potent man of the South now in Congress, Senator PAT HARRISON.

Loyalty and service, in my opinion, are two of the very finest things of life, and I know no man in the Senate who typifies those two splendid qualities to me more than PAT HARRISON. I have always told big men of my State that PAT commands more votes personally in the Senate than any other Senator, and that he gets things done more quietly, effectively, and surely than any other Senator.

He has hosts of friends from the North. He can get Republican votes of the North, both in the Senate and the House. We have had him coming to Detroit for the past 13 years, and he gets a warmer welcome every time he comes. He is as welcome to Detroit in spite of some sectional feeling as he is to Boston and New England and other sections of the country.

I am happy to be here with the Mississippi delegation to-day because of these friends and others—because of Senator HUBERT STEPHENS, also an old friend, so courteous and so true; because of that great power on the Ways and Means Committee, WILL COLLIER, always a friend of my State and a great asset to his own State. He helped lead the great automobile fight recently.

I admire your stormy petrel, Congressman JOHN RANKIN, a man of sterling qualities. It is always good to hear PERCY QUIN get up and put the Republicans back in their places. PERCY sure does love Republicans. So with ROSS COLLINS, JEFF BUSBY, and B. G. LOWREY, all men of note on the floor.

Now, the waters of dear old Michigan going through the Chicago Canal in due time lap the shores of your beloved Mississippi, carried there by the Father of Great Waters. As Michigan and Mississippi are thus bound together by that great river and the extension project of a sort which BEN HUMPHREYS so dearly loved to foster, may we not consider that we are also bound together in spirit, Michigan and Mississippi, so diverse apparently in thought and habits and yet so like and so friendly?

Figuratively speaking, to-day we throw flowers on the broad bosom of Lake Michigan to the memory of BEN HUMPHREYS, and in due time the great river which he loved so well will faithfully carry them past his own State of Mississippi, betokening to his people our love and affection for him.

Mr. BUSBY. Mr. Speaker, I desire to add my simple testimonial of love and respect for this good man we are commemorating on this occasion. It was not my pleasure to know him long, but I met him when I came here a Congressman-elect during the last session of the Sixty-seventh Congress. I often heard of BEN HUMPHREYS and his great services to the State of Mississippi while he was here in the Halls of Congress. The Mississippi River project is a vital project to our State, and through his services along that line he became known throughout the entire State. When I first came here during the last session of the Sixty-seventh Congress it was my good pleasure to come in direct contact with Mr. HUMPHREYS. He was living at the same hotel where I spent several weeks.

He seemed to take an interest in the young men who were coming into Congress. I soon learned to feel especially close to him. I also met his good wife, and a more lovable woman I have never known. They both treated me with that parental attitude that caused me all the while to seek out their company. The responsiveness to my seeming request, although not expressed, was genuine, and I felt at home with them, as I would feel with my father and mother. I frequently talked with Congressman HUMPHREYS. He told me three days before the end of that session that this important legislation was coming up for consideration by Congress—the legislation that authorized \$60,000,000 for flood control. He said to me:

"I do not know whether that bill is going to get through or not; it is important that it should get through. My heart is set on its being enacted into law at this session."

He said that Mr. Mondell, the Republican floor leader at that time, had told him that he had made one promise, and that promise was that this bill should be passed by the House and



Senate and signed by the President before the adjournment of Congress. The next day the bill was called up. It was passed with one single dissenting vote. It caused me to look and think and try to understand what situation could come about which would cause a bill of that great importance to pass the House with so little opposition. It was a bill that carried millions of dollars outside of the Budget estimate, and was opposed for that reason by the President and by the Budget committee. What power did the man possess to carry his friends with him to that extent? I thought about the ability and personality and power of the man who could do a thing like that. It seems to me that through the great touch some men have by which they control their fellow men he had gotten hold of the hearts of the entire body that make up Congress, whether they be on the Republican or the Democratic side, and by reason of that power he was able to do the things he did do for his section of the country.

When I was back here last September Congress was not in session. Mr. HUMPHREYS and a few other Members were in Washington. I had an opportunity to associate with him day after day at that time, and I availed myself of that opportunity. I sat in his office for hours at a time and talked with him. He told me many things of interest and many times did I think I could see in him some of the reasons for these wonderful powers.

His life has been a life of study to me because frankly I have never seen a man who exerted such power over other men.

I am glad I knew him; I am glad it was my privilege to have associated with him even though it was during a brief period of time, because in his life I am sure we can see reasons for us to imitate his character. We can look to his example to show us how to be great and good men and how to do and accomplish things in the way of service to our fellow men.

I often think of the effect such a life has on other lives. Some one in defining success has said: He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much; who has gained the respect of his fellow men and loved little children; who has accomplished his task and filled his niche; who has left the world better than he found it, whether by improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul; whose life has been a blessing and whose memory is a benediction.

I think I can see in the great life of BEN HUMPHREYS that this definition of success was fully met. In the closing remarks of that splendid address of John Temple Graves at the grave of Henry W. Grady we hear him say these words:

I have seen at midnight the gleaming headlight of the giant locomotive rushing onward through the darkness, heedless of dangers and uncertainty, and I thought the spectacle was grand;

I have seen the light come over the eastern hills in glory, driving the lazy darkness before it like mist before a sea-borne gale, till leaf and tree and blade of grass sparkled in the morning rays like myriads of diamonds, and I have known that it was grand;

I have seen the lightning leap athwart the storm-swept sky, hovering over chaotic clouds and howling winds, till cloud and darkness and the shadow-haunted earth flashed into noon-day splendor, and I have known that it was grand;

But the grandest thing next to the radiance that flows from the Almighty's throne is the light of a noble and beautiful life shedding its benedictions on the destinies of men, and at last finding its home in the bosom of God!

Surely the life of BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS was a noble and beautiful one, and an inspiration to all who knew him!

Mr. UNDERHILL. Mr. Speaker, it was not my pleasure to know BEN HUMPHREYS as long as some of my colleagues. It was my privilege, however, to know him intimately, for I was fortunate enough to live at the same hotel in Washington, which gave me the opportunity to meet with him day after day. This brought us in close contact outside of our legislative association. It was also my privilege to be entertained in his own home at Greenville, Miss. A general favorite at the hotel, popular with all his colleagues in Congress, it was back home where everyone loved and respected him almost to the extent of adoration. I shall never forget the pride of the principal of the colored school at Greenville when she referred to Congressman HUMPHREYS as "My Congressman and our beloved fellow citizen who has been such a good friend to our race." In the House, on committees, at the hotel, and in his home he was always the same kindly gentleman.

Few men are blessed with, or have cultivated, such a lovable character. It followed that he in turn should be blessed with the friendship and trust of those who knew him, with the love and companionship of the sweet little lady whose personality

is as lovable as his own, who shared in his success and his sorrows, his victories and his disappointments, with a son who succeeds him in Congress and who inherits his sterling integrity, courage, and high character.

Massachusetts joins with Mississippi in a tribute to his memory and the sorrow of his loved ones. Poet, statesman, husband, father, and friend, your life is summed up in the words of Robert Louis Stevenson:

I would be true, for there are those who trust me;  
I would be pure, for there are those who care;  
I would be strong, for there is much to suffer;  
I would be brave, for there is much to bear;  
I would be friend to all, the foe, the friendless;  
I would be giving, and forget the gift;  
I would be humble, for I know my weakness;  
I would look up, and laugh, and love, and lift.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, leave will be granted to all Members to extend their remarks in the RECORD on the life, character, and services of the late BENJAMIN G. HUMPHREYS. The Chair hears no objection. In accordance with the resolutions heretofore adopted, the House will stand adjourned until to-morrow at 12 o'clock noon.

#### ADJOURNMENT.

Accordingly, at 2 o'clock and 10 minutes p. m., the House adjourned until to-morrow, Monday, April 7, 1924, at 12 o'clock noon.

### SENATE

MONDAY, April 7, 1924

The Chaplain, Rev. J. J. Muir, D. D., offered the following prayer:

Our Father, we rejoice before Thee this morning. Thou hast given to us another opportunity for service. Do grant, we beseech of Thee, necessary wisdom, and may we find ourselves always ready to cooperate with the highest interests of Thy kingdom on earth as well as with the welfare of our loved country. Be very gracious unto us in Thy dealings. Lead us along pathways of truth and righteousness, and so be with us that we may honor Thee continually. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The reading clerk proceeded to read the Journal of the proceedings of Friday last, when, on request of Mr. CURTIS and by unanimous consent, the further reading was dispensed with and the Journal was approved.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Hattigan, one of its clerks, announced that the House had passed without amendment the following bills of the Senate:

S. 47. An act to permit the correction of the general account of Charles B. Strecker, former Assistant Treasurer United States;

S. 107. An act for the relief of John H. McAtee;

S. 796. An act for the relief of William H. Lee;

S. 1021. An act for the relief of the Alaska Commercial Co.;

S. 1703. An act for the relief of J. G. Seupelt; and

S. 2090. An act to provide for the advancement on the retired list of the Regular Army of Second Lieut. Ambrose I. Moriarty.

The message also announced that the House had agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H. R. 6815) to authorize a temporary increase of the Coast Guard for law enforcement.

The message further announced that the House had passed the bill (S. 646) for the relief of Ethel Williams, with an amendment, in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

The message also announced that the House had passed the following bills and joint resolution with amendments, in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 514. An act authorizing the Secretary of War to grant a right of way over the Government levee at Yuma, Ariz.;

S. 661. An act for the relief of Charles Hurst;

S. 1219. An act for the relief of Margaret Nolan;

S. 1861. An act authorizing the Court of Claims of the United States to hear and determine the claim of Elwood Grissinger; and